UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/546
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 June 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning United States statements which affirm the continuing pattern of conspiracy and provocation against Iraq in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17605 (E) 220698 220698

/...

Annex

Letter dated 19 June 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to my letter dated 22 May 1998 addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of May 1998 concerning statements made by a former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense to the Turkish weekly Aydinlik which confirmed the political objectives of the United States and its hostile intentions towards my country.

A senior United States official, Martin Indyk, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and North African Affairs, has once more told a seminar for regional journalists held at the United States State Department that, with the cooperation of what he called 73 opposition groups outside Iraq, the United States is planning a new effort funded by Congress to build up political opposition to President Saddam Hussein.

On 18 June 1998, according to a report from the seminar by a Reuters news agency correspondent, Carol Giacomo, Martin Indyk told regional journalists that "we will be launching an effort to help them organize and coordinate their case against Saddam Hussein". The United States official added that "73 opposition groups have formed outside Iraq and now we're going to get behind them and try to help them". This same United States official then claimed that their agents and hired mercenaries, who would receive funding, "represent an alternative vision for Iraq to Saddam Hussein that is democratic in terms of its aspirations". Indyk added, "I don't place a high probability on their ability to overthrow Saddam, but it's important they demonstrate there is a different way of life for the Iraqi people".

The Reuters agency report, a copy of which I enclose herewith, states that the United States Congress has this year approved $5 million to fund what it calls Radio Free Iraq to broadcast programming in Arabic to Iraq. Republican members of the United States Congress also proposed spending another $33 million to fund United States intelligence agents to "overthrow the Iraqi Government".

The statements of the United States Assistant Secretary of State, Martin Indyk, who is a known Jew and Zionist, are simply an official and documented reaffirmation of the enmity of the United States Administration towards Iraq, which is a founding Member of the United Nations. They are further evidence of the violation by the United States of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its failure to fulfil its responsibility under the Charter as a permanent member of the Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. They are also manifestly incompatible with the Security Council resolutions relevant to Iraq, all of which stress respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

The explicit statement of the United States official concerning the effort to fund groups of outlaws and agents for United States intelligence organizations to conspire with the United States Administration to overthrow the national regime in Iraq, an independent sovereign State, represents a dangerous

development in international relations and is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as a flagrant breach of the duties of members of the Security Council.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq brings these new statements by a United States official to the attention of the members of the Security Council and calls upon the Council to condemn the hostile and conspiratorial policy of the United States towards Iraq and to appeal to the United States Administration to halt the policy of conspiracy and incitement against a Member State and founding Member of the United Nations. It urges the Council to meet its responsibility to counter these United States official actions, which are in breach of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to take measures that will guarantee respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and prevent the irresponsible United States Administration from continuing this criminal behaviour against Iraq.

We affirm to you that such reckless conduct on the part of the United States Administration is a sign of despair and frustration. The provocations and criminal behaviour of United States officials will be crushed and will come to nothing, as did their previous conduct, in the face of the valiant and clever people of Iraq under the historic leadership of President Saddam Hussein.

I should be grateful if you would notify the members of the Security Council of this letter and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

U.S. PLAN WOULD AID ANTI-SADDAM GROUPS

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters
18 June 1998; Page A33

A senior State Department official said yesterday that the United States, working with 73 groups outside Iraq, plans a new effort funded by Congress to build up political opposition to President Saddam Hussein.

"We will be launching an effort to help them organize and coordinate their case against Saddam Hussein," Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk told a seminar for regional journalists at the State Department.

Indyk, who oversees Near Eastern affairs, said the U.S. effort will go forward "in a visible and effective way," focusing on Saddam Hussein's "brutality and his war crimes" in the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the 1991 Gulf War and its aftermath.

He said 73 opposition groups have formed outside Iraq and "now we're going to get behind them and try to help them ... They represent an alternative vision for Iraq to Saddam Hussein that is democratic in terms of its aspirations."

"I don't place a high probability on their ability to overthrow Saddam, but it's important they demonstrate there is a different way of life for the Iraqi people," Indyk added.

Congress this year approved $5 million to fund Radio Free Iraq to broadcast programming in Arabic to Iraq.

Republican lawmakers also proposed spending another $33 million to help Iraqi opposition movements overthrow the Iraqi Government and provide them with humanitarian assistance.

State Department officials said they expect to receive $5 million of that amount to underwrite their programme.

The United States had an extensive overt and covert programme of support for Kurdish groups in northern Iraq opposing the Government in Baghdad. But it collapsed in August 1996 when the Iraqi leader sent troops into the region to intervene in Kurdish factional fighting.

Since then, Washington has made episodic efforts to unite the Kurdish factions - who represent one segment of Iraq's disparate opposition - but without success.